

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AGREEMENTS
ON LANDS ENROLLED IN
THE CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is agreed to by the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS), Soil Conservation Service (SCS), and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) for the purpose of implementing wildlife management agreements on lands enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) in the Prairie Pothole Region. The parties find that wildlife management agreements will increase the wildlife benefits produced by the CRP, increase acceptance of CRP by landowners and the general public, increase farmers' income and, possibly, reduce the costs to ASCS. Wildlife management agreements will be two party agreements between FWS and landowners.

ASCS, SCS, and FWS agree as follows:

1. Wildlife management agreements will not, in any way, infringe upon the authorities or responsibilities of ASCS or SCS. If any conflict exists between the wildlife management agreement and the CRP contract, the CRP contract will prevail.
2. Wildlife management agreements will be used to enhance the wildlife benefits CRP. Wildlife management agreements may not be used in any manner which would jeopardize CRP objectives.
3. ASCS and SCS will assume no responsibilities for taking or enforcing wildlife management agreements; these responsibilities will rest solely with FWS. To the extent deemed feasible by state-level officials of the respective Federal agencies, assistance may be provided as follows:
 - ASCS may provide lists of bidders and contract holders to FWS.
 - ASCS and SCS may refer landowner inquiries to FWS and otherwise help publicize the wildlife management agreements.
 - ASCS may invite FWS to provide personnel to assist in ASCS county offices during sign-up periods.
 - SCS may develop conservation plans or amend existing plans upon requests from landowners to provide consistency between wildlife management and soil conservation purposes.
4. FWS will not require any CRP contract holder to take any action which would violate the CRP contract. FWS and the contract holders may request consideration of amendments to the CRP contract which would facilitate wildlife management

practices. FWS also may prepare an additional plan for habitat management, provided that the additional plan must be consistent with the original or amended conservation plan.

5. ASCS and FWS may notify each other of any violations or cancellations of any contracts/agreements which could involve violations of the other agencies' contracts/agreements.

This MOU will remain in effect indefinitely. Any party may cancel the MOU by notifying the other parties and any party may recommend revisions.

Milt Lertz
Administrator, ASCS

12-14-87
Date

Walter Spaling
Chief, SCS

1/14/97
Date

Frank Dumble
Director, FWS

JAN 13 1987
Date